Economic sanction for Orissa

1661.SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa is facing economic sanctions from the Centre on account of non-submission of Utility Certificates, as reported in the New Indian Express dated 1st January, 2003;

(b) the details of various relief funds tor which Utility Certificates are awaited;

(c) whether the delay in release of the funds is one of the factors fo non-submission of utility Certificates by the State in time; and

(d) if so, leniency proposed to be extended to the State in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 90.52 crore for the year 2002-03 has been released to the Government of Orissa. In addition, an amount of Rs. 16.41 ci?re for charges of air lifting during floods in 2001 and Rs. 5.29 crore as subsidy to the drought affected farmers have been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund during the current year.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Naxalite affected States

1662. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the action taken for special socio-economic plans for development of naxalite affected States to fight naxalite menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been formulated for dealing with the specific problems of backward areas, some of which have also been affected by naxalism.This scheme has three components, namely, (i) the Backward Districts Initiative; (ii) the Special Plan for Bihar; and (iii) the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa.

Under the Backward Districts Component of this scheme, 25 districts have been selected on a pilot basis of which eleven districts have been

identified as extremist affected by Ministry of Home Affairs. In addition, three districts affected by naxalism are covered under the Special Plan for the the KBK districts of Orissa.

Relocation of outlets of fuel pumps

1663. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Authority of India and raised objections to the existence of around 4000 outlets of fuel pumps which were to be either closed down or relocated as per its guidelines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NHAI have relaxed its norms and now fate of 400 pumps remains to be decided; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the relaxation and whether the safety and smooth flow of traffic at highways has been kept in view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [(MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Works under Central Road Fund

†1664. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether works for the State Highways and main district roads are sanctioned only under the Central Road Fund;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry gives only administrative approval to the proposals;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.